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RURAL DISTRICT OF MALLING

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of the Malling

District

for the year 1949

By the
Medical Officer of Health
(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON)

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector
(H. C. COLDRICK)

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

N. HAY BOLTON, M.D., CH.B., D.T.M. & H., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor:

H. C. COLDRIK, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.
(Commenced duties 2nd May, 1949)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

W. C. E. KEUTENIUS, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.

Cleansing Officer:

A. J. WELLER.

Housing Inspector:

R. SOUTER.

Clerks:

(Senior) J. T. AUSTIN.

(Mrs.) A. L. BEBINGTON (Resigned 30/4/49).
(Temporary appointment).

J. BRIMSTED (Commenced 2/5/49).
(On temporary loan from another Dept.).

(Mrs.) A. J. WELLER (Commenced 4/7/49).
(Temporary part-time appointment).

Area of District (in acres)	45,655
Registrar General's estimate of Civilian resident population (1949)	34,310
Registrar General's estimate of Total population (1949)	35,150
Average density of persons per acre	0.76
Number of inhabited houses (end 1949) according to Rate Books—computed	9,565
Average density of houses	1 per 4.8 acres
Average number of persons per house inhabited	3.59
Rateable Value (as at 31/3/49)	£186,271
Rateable Value (as at 31/3/50)	£192,116
Sum represented by a penny rate (as at 31/3/49)	£749
Sum represented by a penny rate (as at 31/3/50)	£788

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MALLING RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my sixteenth Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

The Report has been prepared on the lines of that for 1948, as indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 2/50 dated 25th January, 1950.

The figure of 34,310, being the Registrar General's estimate of civilian population for the district for the year 1949, was an increase of 250 upon his estimate for the previous year.

The excess of births over deaths for the year was 212 and so the estimated increase of population during the year was to a very large extent (84.8%) an apparent natural increase with very little inward migration.

The Death Rate at 10.35 compares with 12.36 for 1948 and is a very favourable reduction. From the tables given it will be seen that 65% or almost two-thirds of the deaths were in persons aged 65 years and over and many of these people were in their seventies and eighties, so that we can only expect any further considerable decrease in the Death Rate to occur by the prolonged survival of aged persons. Heart Disease was again the numerical chief cause of Death with Respiratory Diseases and Cancer in succession.

In connection with Deaths the Registrar General has resumed the pre-war arrangement of supplying with his Statistical data, Area Comparability Factors which he has calculated for the purpose of securing comparability between local death rates.

The Birth Rate was again lower for the year compared with the previous year i.e., 16.53 against 17.97 in 1948, though the figure is still slightly higher than the immediate pre-war years.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age at 10 gives the very low rate of 17.64 per 1,000 live births and this figure compares very favourably with that for England and Wales. Of the infant deaths 1 concerned an illegitimate child. There was one Maternal Death during the year.

No notification was received or any death recorded from Diphtheria during the year. This is the second year in succession that I have been able to record this pleasing fact and it can be regarded as a measure of the useful purpose served by the immunisation of children against such disease. I have included in my report some statistical information concerning Immunisation and Vaccination

during 1949 in this area, which has been received by me from Dr. Elliott (County Medical Officer) who of course is now responsible for the administration of this scheme, in accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946. These matters do have a very material bearing upon the record of the health of the inhabitants of a district and this practice of making available information to Local Authorities is one that could very well be expanded to include other services, particularly in view of the fact that each year local control of a service appears to be removed (Milk Production control passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries 1/10/49). With the help of such information the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of a district can be a really comprehensive report on the Health of that District.

As regards the "Notifiable" Disease notification and death rates, those in respect of the Rural District generally compared favourably with those for England and Wales during the year, Malling having greater rates only in respect of notifications of Measles and Food Poisoning and a greater mortality rate in respect of Tuberculosis. These matters receive appropriate comment in the report.

Details of the work carried out in connection with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (Environmental Hygiene), Water Supply, Supervision of Food Supplies, and Public Cleansing will be found in the attached report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who, in conjunction with the Cleansing Officer, has reported separately on these matters, as in previous years.

SECTION A.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS—	Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate ...	281	269	550
Illegitimate ...	12	5	17
Total Live Births	293	274	567
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Civilian resident population	...	...	16.53

STILL BIRTHS—			
Legitimate ...	5	3	8
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total Still Births	5	3	8
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births			13.91

DEATHS—			
Total (Male 170, Female 185) ...			355
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Civilian Population ...			10.35 (crude)

Adjusted Death Rate after multiplying the Crude Death Rate figure by the Area Comparability factor of 0.93 which has been supplied by the Registrar General and which has been calculated for the purpose of securing comparability between local death rates ... 9.63

Deaths from puerperal causes—	
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1
Other Maternal Causes ...	—
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	1.74

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—	
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...	10
Rate—All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	17.64
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ...	16.36
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	58.82
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	50
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	1

Comparative Table showing Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infantile Mortality Rate.

Year	per 1000 estimated Civilian population		per 1000 total (live & still) births	per 1000 live births
	Live Birth Rate	Death Rate	Still Birth Rate	Death rate of infants under 1 year of age
Malling R.D. 1945	17.56	12.07	32.31	39.49
1946	22.95	11.57	23.81	27.10
1947	22.69	12.40	24.77	37.43
1948	17.97	12.36	27.03	32.68
1949	16.53	10.35 (Crude) 9.63 (Adjusted)	13.91	17.64
England & Wales 1949	16.7 *	11.7 *		32.00 †

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

† Per 1,000 related Live births.

The following table extracts the vital Statistics for the district during the first half of the Century and shows the steady improvement which has taken place, such being particularly the case in Infantile Mortality, the 1949 figure for which is the lowest recorded for the district. This remark also applies to the Death Rate for 1949.

Year	Estimated Population.	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident Population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident Population.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births.
1900	24,705	15.6	26.4	140.9
1901	24,701	14.8	26.16	145.5
1902	24,696	14.2	27.7	110.8
1903	24,691	12.9	27.8	126.8
1904	24,687	13.1	26.45	107.2
1905	24,683	12.6	25.88	92.3
1906	24,678	13.7	24.5	114.2
1907	24,674	14.8	25.8	105.3
1908	24,671	11.8	24.6	94.0
1909	24,675	13.0	22.4	99.5
1910	24,671	11.1	21.5	75.5
1911	24,205	12.6	22.2	117.1
1912	24,155	11.67	22.1	61.6
1913	24,105	12.65	23.1	107.7
1914	24,054	10.8	22.7	58.5
1915	23,463	14.3	20.2	73.8

TABLE—*continued from previous page.*

Year	Estimated Population.	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident Population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident Population.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births.
1916	23,408	13.96	19.06	83.9
1917	22,310	14.69	16.4	72.3
1918	22,264	16.85	17.5	60.5
1919	22,873	12.45	18.25	56.3
1920	23,299	11.2	30.17	56.8
1921	25,280	12.3	23.77	61.56
1922	25,365	10.7	21.08	44.69
1923	25,760	10.67	19.2	52.5
1924	26,020	11.8	16.7	37.0
1925	25,840	11.4	17.7	47.9
1926	25,600	11.4	18.08	54.0
1927	25,860	11.8	15.85	61.0
1928	26,200	12.5	17.04	45.15
1929	26,000	13.8	16.7	60.04
1930	26,000	11.15	16.08	45.46
1931	25,250	12.67	14.93	39.79
1932	25,470	12.76	13.98	25.29
1933	25,700	12.37	13.85	56.17
1934	30,145	12.4	14.63	45.35
1935	30,320	11.41	14.9	33.33
1936	30,400	13.1	14.34	68.8
1937	30,630	10.97	15.05	30.37
1938	30,640	10.97	14.82	35.24
1939	30,740	11.25	14.64	40.18
1940	34,750	10.92	14.32	32.72
1941	32,610	12.82	13.92	57.27
1942	31,290	11.57	19.05	52.01
1943	30,870	11.34	17.68	36.62
1944	36,060	13.11	19.8	47.42
1945	30,310	12.07	17.56	39.49
1946	32,160	11.57	22.95	27.10
1947	32,960	12.40	22.69	37.43
1948	34,060	12.36	17.97	32.68
1949	34,310	10.35	16.53	17.64

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF. Details of the Public Health Staff are set out at the beginning of the Report. Two members of the clerical staff of the Department were absent during the whole year in order to carry out their National Service in H.M. Forces, and the continuity of the Department suffered accordingly.

The smallness of the Technical Staff does not allow all matters to receive the attention which they merit.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The arrangements continued in force during 1949 whereby specimens and samples for pathological and analytical examination are submitted to the County Pathologist or the County Analyst at County Hall, Maidstone, according to the examination required, and proved to be quite satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The provision for this district of an Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Kent County Council in accordance with their duties under the National Health Service Acts.

NURSING IN THE HOME,

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, CHILD LIFE PROTECTION, SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES. The Kent County Council is the responsible authority for the administration of these services in this district.

NUTRITION AND FOOD. Food has continued to be adequate and nutrition good. Children are well looked after at Welfare Centres and School Canteens with extra milk, vitamins, etc. The Housewife finds difficulty in providing a varied diet free from monotony and of necessity this leads to a relative excess of starchy foods. This in turn predisposes to a certain amount of adiposity and a fairly widespread demand for advice as to slimming.

One feels that, especially in rural areas, some means should be found by which fresh fruit and vegetables could pass from grower to consumer more readily and cheaply.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948—Section 47. No action was taken during the year under Section 47 of this Act for the removal of aged and infirm persons. 3 visits were made to aged people. In one case a woman aged 91 years entered hospital voluntarily, one old man died almost immediately his condition was brought to my notice and in the other case a home help was provided by the County Council for an aged man.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the number of cases in which bedding was steam disinfected and one or more rooms fumigated :—

Work Carried Out	Tuberculosis	Cancer	Scarlet Fever
Fumigation of Rooms and Disinfection of Bedding	12	4	1
Fumigation of Rooms only	6	1	1
Disinfection of Bedding only	—	3	—

MORTUARIES. Three mortuaries are provided by the Council and these are situated at Aylesford, Borough Green and West Malling. They are available for use at any time and the Police are provided with keys.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 50 (Burial etc., of the Dead).

In accordance with the Council's responsibility under this section it was necessary during the year to make arrangements for the burial of the body of a woman aged 75 years.

FOOD POISONING. The table given below, is of food poisoning notifications which were received and investigated and returned to the Registrar General :—

1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	—	4	1	2	2	—	—	7	3

Outbreaks due to identified agents :

Total Outbreaks : 1	Total Cases : 5
Due to Salmonella Organisms (Typhi-Murium)	
(Contained in Meat)	

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :

Total Outbreaks : 1	Total Cases : 4
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Single Cases :

Agent identified : 1	Total Cases : 1
(Salmonella Organism)	

There were no deaths from food poisoning during the year.

The Council accepted in principle during the year the recommendation that they should adopt and enforce for the district Byelaws in respect of the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of food and Sale of Food in the Open Air, based upon the Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Food. Final adoption procedure had not been completed by the end of the year but was early expected.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox

The Kent County Council is responsible for the provision in this district of facilities for immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox and the following information has been received from the County Medical Officer (Dr. A. Elliott), concerning such during the year 1949.

	Under 1 (1949)	1 — (1948)	2 — (1947)	3 — (1946)	4 — (1945)	5 — 9 (1944-1940)	10 — 14 (1939-1935)	Total under 15 years
No. of Children resident in the Rural District of Malling who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1949.								
(i) Primary Inoculations	45	369	70	22	7	117	29	659
(ii) Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	2	—	562	177	741
No of persons resident in the Rural District of Malling who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1949								
(i) Number Vaccinated	181			103			14	5 303
(ii) Number Re-Vaccinated	—			1			3	23 27

The following cases of notifiable diseases occurred during the year :—

Diseases	Total Notified	Number of Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	—
Whooping Cough	34	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	2	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—
Measles	476	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Pneumonia	17	17*
Dysentery	—	—
Smallpox	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Food Poisoning	10	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1†
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Totals	554	18

* This figure includes deaths also from those forms of pneumonia which are not notifiable.

† This is not the same case as that notified but was a death from Puerperal causes which occurred outside the district, of a patient whose home address was in this area.

Cases of infectious disease occurring in this district are normally admitted to the Mid-Kent Hospital Management Committee's Isolation Hospital at Fant Lane, Maidstone, and I am indebted to the Matron (Miss K. M. Heavens) for the following details concerning admissions during 1949 :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	6
Suspected Diphtheria					
(Diagnosed Tonsillitis)	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas (Facial)	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	1
Measles and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Enteritis	...	...	...	...	2
					14

Additionally 2 cases of Acute Polio-myelitis were admitted to the West Kent Hospital, Maidstone, during the year.

The following table relates to the incidence of Notifiable Disease according to disease and age groups :—

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis		Acute Poli-encephalitis		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	4	8	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	9	5	1	-	-	-	60	51	-	-
3 - 4	-	1	5	5	-	-	-	-	53	50	-	-
5 - 9	5	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	126	105	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
25 & over	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	5	21	13	2	-	-	-	251	225	-	-

	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis lethargica		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Erysipelas		Cerebro-spinal Fever		Food Poisoning		Puerperal pyrexia		Ophthalmia neonatorum	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
45 - 64	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	1	-	-	7	3	-	1	-	-

The table given below is inserted for comparison with the Death and Notification rates for England and Wales :—

	England & Wales (provisional)	Malling R.D.
Rates per 1,000 population. (Civilian).		
DEATHS—		
All causes*	11.7	10.35
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.58†
Influenza	0.15	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.51	0.50
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)—		
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63	0.32
Whooping Cough	2.39	0.99
Diphtheria	0.04	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	13.87
Pneumonia	0.80	0.50
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.06
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.29

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

† All forms.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The table set out below records in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year together with the number of deaths which occurred.

Age Periods (Years)	New Cases*				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—4	1	2	...	1	...	...	1	...
5—14	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	1
15—24	6	5	...	...	1	1	...	...
25—34	3	7	...	1	3	2	1	...
35—44	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
45—54	8	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
55—64	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
65 upwards.	2	1	...	...	2	2	...	...
Totals	25	20	...	4	11	6	2	1
March Quarter	7	4	...	2	...	3	...	...
June Quarter	6	2	...	...	6	1	1	1
September Quarter	9	8	...	2	4	1	...	...
December Quarter	3	6	...	...	1	1	1	...

* Relates to Primary Notifications received under Article V of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis of persons who had not been notified as suffering from that disease (3M 2F)—5 (25%).

Comparative Table showing trend of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis :—

YEAR	New Cases (Primary Notifications)				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1938	3	13	5	5	10	4	1	-
1939	14	11	3	6	17	8	3	2
1940	13	10	2	2	16	17	2	4
1941	11	7	1	4	12	3	3	1
1942	12	24	10	6	16	10	3	-
1943	19	13	3	4	13	4	2	2
1944	22	19	4	6	23	6	2	3
1945	11	12	4	14	11	3	2	1
1946	17	17	5	8	9	7	1	3
1947	21	18	5	9	12	6	1	1
1948	37	18	10	10	16	3	2	2
1949	25	20	—	4	11	6	2	1

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis of all forms notified during 1949 shows a decrease on the 1948 figure and this is the first time since the end of the war that such a decrease has been recorded. The notification rate of all forms of the disease per 1,000 of the population was 1.43 as against 2.20 for 1948. The death rate for the disease in the rural district was again higher than that for the whole country but regard should be had to the presence within the district of a Village Settlement for the treatment and rehabilitation of tuberculous cases.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925 AND SECTION 172 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No action was taken under the above during the year.

MEASLES. Of the 476 cases of Measles notified as occurring in the district during the year the greater part of these occurred during the period, middle of May to the middle of July, with a peak in June. This outbreak appeared to be a seasonal epidemic affecting in the main children of the age group 1-5 years and did not show any particular discrimination between the sexes, though the disease showed a greater incidence in the more "urbanised" parts of the district. So far as I am aware the cases were of a mild type and generally without complications. No deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

The following table shows the trend of notification of Measles during the past ten years, since when this disease became notifiable in this district :—

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Number of cases of measles notified	30	709	435	313	6	520	72	184	254	476

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS. Two cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified during the year and both occurred during the month of September. One was a man of 24 years and the other a baby boy aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. Both were removed to hospital and eventually recovered. A number of contacts to cases occurring in other districts were visited and kept under supervision for the required period. One other case was notified but this notification was withdrawn when the case was not confirmed.

The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year :—

R.G.'s list No	CAUSES OF DEATH	Number of Deaths		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
6	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	11	6	17
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	3
8	Syphilitic diseases ... ..	...	1	1
9	Influenza	1	2	3
10	Measles ... ..	...	...	...
11	Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis ...	...	...	...
12	Acute Infective encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...
13	Cancer of bucal cavity : & Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	...	5	5
14	Cancer of stomach & duodenum	5	...	5
15	Cancer of breast ... ..	...	5	5
16	Cancer of all other Sites	16	19	35
17	Diabetes	2	3	5
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	21	28	49
19	Heart diseases	45	55	100
20	Other diseases of the circulatory system	7	4	11
21	Bronchitis	12	6	18
22	Pneumonia	8	9	17
23	Other respiratory diseases	3	5	8
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	3	5
25	Diarrhoea (under two years) ... ..	...	1	1
26	Appendicitis	1	1	2
27	Other digestive diseases	1	1	2
28	Nephritis	9	5	14
29	Puerperal & post abortive sepsis ... ..	...	1	1
30	Other maternal causes ... ..	...	...	...
31	Premature birth	3	1	4
32	Congenital Malformation : birth injury : etc.	1	3	4
33	Suicide	1	1	2
34	Road Traffic accidents	3	2	5
35	Other violent causes	4	1	5
36	All other causes	12	16	28
All causes		170	185	355

Deaths—All Causes—1949

Age Group	March Quarter		June Quarter		September Quarter		December Quarter		Total for the Year	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	1	-	-	2	1	-	3	3	5	5
1—4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
5—9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10—19	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
20—29	1	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	5	4
30—39	-	1	2	1	-	-	4	1	6	3
40—49	-	4	1	3	2	1	3	3	6	11
50—59	5	4	6	4	3	4	2	8	16	20
60—64	6	7	2	3	5	3	8	4	21	17
65 and over	30	44	26	27	27	22	26	29	109	122
	43	62	41	42	39	31	47	50	170	185

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—10 (2.82%)

Deaths of persons aged 65 years and over—231 (65.07%)

In conclusion may I say how much I appreciate the continued support of the Council throughout the year, and also of the able manner in which the members of the staff of the department have carried out their duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. HAY BOLTON,

24th August, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MALLING RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my second Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances existing in the rural district.

I regret to have to report that no major work on sewerage schemes has yet been possible but your Consultant Engineer has been working on the Aylesford and Ditton Scheme, also on the Watlingtonbury Scheme. During the year a survey of the pail closet position in the parishes of East Peckham, Ightham and Ryarsh was carried out. As a result approximately 165 pail closets in East Peckham and 6 in Ryarsh are now emptied weekly by the

Council in addition to those already emptied in the parishes of Aylesford, Ditton and Wouldham. A special effort was made to effect conversion of pail and earth closets to water closets in suitable cases and it is gratifying to record that 74 such conversions were made during the year.

Housing remains one of the most pressing problems and although as many new houses as possible are being constructed the position regarding the existing cottage property is difficult. From a perusal of the housing section later in this report it will be seen that the low rents and the utilisation of building materials and labour on new construction are factors that preclude an all out effort to effect reconditioning of unfit dwellings. Consequently many complaints are received in my Department and an effort is made to bring about all the repairs requested.

The need for public conveniences in the urbanised parishes of the district was considered by the Council during the year. As a result in the parish of Snodland one agreement was made with a firm of brewers for the use of the ladies' and gentlemen's conveniences at the rear of a public house situated at a busy bus stop. A suitable notice was displayed indicating this facility to the public.

The staff position remained acute during the year and it was not possible to give as much attention as I would like to the routine inspections of registered premises etc. The day to day work of the Department keeps the staff fully occupied and there is little time left for revisiting premises to ascertain that work requested has been undertaken satisfactorily and for other routine inspections.

Every effort, however, is made to bring about improvement and to execute the work entrusted to the department as thoroughly as is possible.

SECTION C.

WATER

The major part of the area of the Malling Rural District is supplied with water from the mains of the Mid-Kent Water Company (with which is now amalgamated the South Kent Water Company). A small portion of the Parish of Aylesford is served by the Maidstone Water Company whilst the Parish of Shipbourne is supplied by the private supply of the Fairlawne Estate, with the exception of 2 houses which are connected to the Tonbridge Water Company's supply. During the year 164 houses were newly connected to a mains supply.

SAMPLES. Nine samples of the mains supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and one sample for chemical examination, whilst thirteen samples of other supplies were taken. The samples were collected by an Officer of this Department. The following summarises the reports of the Pathologist and Analyst :—

	Bacteriological Examination		Chemical Examination	
	Number of Samples	Results	Number of Samples	Results
Raw Water	7	All unsatisfactory	6	5 Samples satisfactory
Treated Water	9	All satisfactory	1	Satisfactory

Action was taken on all 7 unsatisfactory bacteriological samples. 3 samples related to a private estate spring supply serving 10 cottages. Orders had been given at the year's end to connect 8 of the cottages to the public main. The other unsatisfactory samples referred to two shallow wells which were cleaned out and improvement effected. It was not possible to connect the latter premises to the mains supply because of their remote position.

In addition to the samples enumerated above the Mid-Kent Water Company and the Maidstone Water Company have submitted their results of examination which showed their supplies to be bacteriologically and chemically satisfactory.

The following table sets out the particulars of the number of dwelling houses, together with those having a piped supply of water and the estimated population in respect of the various parishes :—

	No. of houses according to Rate Books—December, 1949	Population (Estimated)	No. of houses having piped supply
Addington	146	515	146
Aylesford	1199	4609	1027
Birling	240	790	199
Borough Green	484	1663	484

TABLE—continued from previous page.

		No. of houses according to Rate Books— December, 1949	Population (Estimated)	No. of houses having piped supply
Burham	... ..	506	1670	505
Ditton	... ..	448	1666	439
Ightham	... ..	428	1588	403
Leybourne	... ..	143	750	134
East Malling	... ..	855	3216	855
West Malling	... ..	619	2222	618
Mereworth	... ..	194	762	162
Offham	... ..	190	715	172
East Peckham	... ..	556	2193	472
West Peckham	... ..	97	320	42
Platt	... ..	313	1235	308
Plaxtol	... ..	310	1062	291
Ryarsh	... ..	215	836	214
Shipbourne	... ..	119	436	96*
Snodland	... ..	1197	4297	1197
Stansted	... ..	165	565	159
Trottiscliffe	... ..	136	459	119
Wateringbury	... ..	342	1298	324
Wouldham	... ..	249	789	246
Wrotham	... ..	414	1494	370
Totals	... ..	9565	35150†	8982 (93.90%)

† Registrar General's Estimate of Total Population.

* With the exception of 2 houses which are connected to the Tonbridge Water Company's mains this Parish is supplied from the private source of the Fairlawne Estate.

It is difficult to give the exact number of houses supplied by stand pipes, but it is estimated that the figure is approximately three per cent of the total number of houses having a piped supply.

EXTENSION OF MAINS. During the year 1078 yards of 3" main were laid, the details of which are set out below :—

Parish	Yards	Size	Water Company
Ditton	290	3 ins.	Mid Kent
East Malling	133	3 "	"
Ightham	56	3 "	"
Plaxtol	384	3 "	"
Wateringbury	215	3 "	"

Ministry of Health approval was given during the year to a scheme embracing the extension of water mains to Kits Coty Estate and the Lower Bell locality in the parish of Aylesford comprising approximately 43 dwellings now dependent upon stored rainwater for supply. Orders to proceed with the scheme had been

given to the Water Company at the year's end. When this scheme is completed it will considerably reduce the amount of water carried to this Parish as shown in the table under.

DELIVERY OF WATER. The year 1949 being very dry it was necessary to continue the arrangements previously existing to take a supply of water upon request and repayment to those whose domestic supply of stored rain water had run dry and in this connection the following deliveries took place :—

Month	Gallons Delivered	
	Aylesford	West Peckham
February	150	—
March	450	—
April	900	—
May	2550	—
June	800	1600
July	6400	2400
August	800	2400
September	4000	800
October	1600	400
TOTALS	17650	7600

RAINFALL. The following information concerning rainfall in the district during the year as recorded at the East Malling Research Station has been kindly supplied by the Scientific Liaison Officer of that Station :—

Total amount of rain which fell during the year	Number of days on which rain fell during the year	Heaviest rainfall on any one day during the year
20.94 inches	132 days	1.50 inches (on 20th October, 1949)
Longest Wet Period during the year—January 1st to January 15th (15 days)		
Longest Dry Period during the year—June 8th to July 3rd (26 days)		

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

In the Annual Report for 1948, reference was made to the sewage treatment plant to deal with the drainage effluent from 28 Council Houses at Millfield, East Peckham, when works were proceeding. These works have now been completed and the plant is functioning satisfactorily.

No serious flooding occurred in the Ryarsh Lane sewer at West Malling during the year and it would appear that the systematic dragging of this portion of sewer for the removal of deposited silt is proving effective. This is despite the fact that in recent years over 100 new houses have been brought on to this sewerage system.

No major schemes of sewerage were put in hand during the year but the Council's Consultant Engineer was engaged in the preparation of schemes for the Parishes of Aylesford and Ditton and for the Parish of Watlington in conjunction with the Parishes of Nettlestead and Teston in the adjoining Rural District of Maidstone. A considerable amount of routine information and data was collected for the Consultant Engineer by this department which necessitated a large amount of time. A brewery is situated in the Parish of Watlington and it was necessary to gauge the flow and chemical nature of the trade effluent therefrom. Readings were taken over a "V" notch baffle plate during the brewery working hours and extended over 8 days. Despite the fact that a lot has already been done there still remains much more to do before the schemes can be ready for submission to the Ministry of Health for approval to commence.

During the year the Council approved in principle a scheme for the installation of a small ejector plant and rising main to pump the sewage from 10 existing Council houses in the Parish of Igham into a new treatment plant proposed in connection with 10 new Council houses situated on high land on the opposite side of the road. As soon as the new treatment plant has been installed it is hoped to commence this work.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. A complaint was received during the year of unpleasant smells emanating from the River Medway in the vicinity of Aylesford Bridge, and as a result a Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health inspected the river and an adjacent Paper Mill. The river is tidal at this point and it was felt that pollution entering from industries downstream and upstream was being deposited on the banks. That, due to the hot weather and the fact that little or no surface water entered the river because of lack of rainfall, this pollution gave off unpleasant odours. With the advent of autumn the smells subsided and disappeared. However, the pollution of this river remains a problem.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The following report has been contributed by the Cleansing Officer (Mr. A. J. Weller) :—

Before setting out the details of the work carried out by this Department, it is necessary to record that certain changes have been made in the work and the staff engaged in the various services, the outstanding changes being :—

The collection of salvage was discontinued.

Preston Hall Hospital was added to refuse collection.

The collection of night-soil was extended to parts of other parishes.

In 1945, 11 men working a 50 hour week were engaged on refuse collection and disposal but at the commencement of 1949, with an increase of approximately 650 houses receiving the service there were still only 11 men employed and they were working a shorter week of 44 hours instead of 50. When the Preston Hall collection was undertaken permission was given to employ 1 extra man, this permission being later extended by a further two in order to attempt to counteract the annual loss of working time through sickness and holidays. However, by the end of the year there were two vacancies still to be filled and the position remained substantially as before. From these details it may be seen that considerable additional work is being done with the same staff working a shorter period of time.

MANPOWER :

The number of employees engaged in the work of this department during the year was 39 and they were employed as follows :—

- 1 Foreman.
- 1 Fitter.
- 1 Rodent Operator.
- 2 Maintenance.
- 12 Refuse Collection.
- 2 Refuse Disposal and Maintenance to Sewage Farm and
Empty Roads.
- 10 Cesspool Emptying and Night Soil.
- 10 Drainage Work.

Sickness caused the loss of 266 working days and 78 working weeks must be allowed for full holidays.

Consequently a shortage of manpower is frequently experienced and it is difficult to maintain the various services provided by the Department. At times the delay of important routine maintenance work is necessary in order that the vehicles may be kept on the road.

REFUSE COLLECTION :

There has been no change in the method of collection, as in previous years the refuse bins were placed at the gate by the householder. It has been possible to maintain a weekly collection in ten parishes and a fortnightly one in the remaining fourteen.

A request was received from Preston Hall Hospital for a weekly collection. This was agreed to and the spare vehicle was brought into use for the purpose. The present arrangements for the collection are proving adequate.

In addition to refuse collection, a large amount of additional work was undertaken by the Council's vehicles in transporting materials in connection with drainage work, salvage, covering for refuse tips, water deliveries, and other incidental items. The actual tonnage of material being as follows :

Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	6,954 tons.
Hardcore, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1,378 tons.
Drainage work	...	...	...	...	...	331 tons.
Salvage and other Miscellaneous work	...	...	...	...	...	675½ tons.

During the last three years there has been a steady increase in the amount of refuse collected in the area. In 1949, the total tonnage of refuse increased by 508 tons over the 1948 figure, as compared with a difference of 515 tons between 1947 and 1948 totals.

The following table shows the amounts collected during the past three years :—

	Refuse	Hardcore	Drainage work	Salvage	Total
1947	5,931 tons	1,759 tons	195 tons	932½ tons	8,817½ tons
1948	6,446 „	1,461½ „	139 „	614½ „	8,661 „
1949	6,954 „	1,378 „	331 „	675½ „	9,338½ „

REFUSE DISPOSAL :

The refuse collected during 1949 has continued to be disposed of at the Coldharbour Lane site at Aylesford and the Brookfield site at Ham Hill. Use of the former has had to be discontinued at intervals during the year owing to the tip becoming ignited. Trouble of this nature is causing great concern, as it not only creates difficulties in the refuse collection service, it being necessary to divert vehicles and move equipment to Ham Hill, but regular disposal by the Controlled Tipping method is upset by the undermining and destruction of the tip faces. Recovery of ground at Ham Hill is still proving very satisfactory.

Obtaining covering for the refuse tips was very difficult at times during the year but the purchase of top soil from contractors in the area proved satisfactory until direct labour was available for the work.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING :

A new cesspool emptier was delivered on the 7th April, this machine was fitted with the usual form of night-soil attachment.

During the year requests were received from certain further parishes for the collection of night-soil. This was agreed to and

to carry out this work, the vehicle which the last new one had replaced was overhauled and retained for this purpose. Some rearrangements of the present staff and the employment of an extra man enabled this to be done satisfactorily.

The Council has two permanent tips for the disposal of cesspool contents and night-soil, one at Crouch and the other at Aylesford. To reduce excessive travelling other loads are disposed of on farm land with the consent of the owners.

The work done in carrying out the emptying of cesspools is increasing year by year to a very marked degree, and will, I feel, continue to do so until the various proposals regarding sewerage schemes in the district are put into effect.

SALVAGE :

As a result of circular No. 17 from the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Supply the Council decided on the 1st May, 1940 that the collection of salvage should be carried out. In July of the same year collection was made compulsory under Regulation 54B of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939, and continued so until June, 1949. After this date collection was continued in the district on a voluntary basis until November, when stocks continued to accumulate and no market could be found to accept further supplies. The collection was then discontinued.

The following table gives, in tons, details of the amounts of salvage and receipts, over the whole period of salvage collection :—

Year	Salvage (Tons)	Receipts (£)
1940	150	665
1941	350	1,235
1942	670	2,809
1943	558	1,945
1944	237	1,546
1945	139	939
1946	242	1,078
1947	152	1,021
1948	186	1,280
1949	172	1,077
Total	2,856	13,595

GARAGES, VEHICLES AND MAINTENANCE :

Work commenced on the new garages at Upper Mill, East Malling at the end of October. These garages will house the whole of the Council's vehicles which were dispersed over various parts of the district, and should be of considerable assistance towards more efficient administration.

The following are the mileage figures for the last three years :—

	Refuse Vehicles	Cesspool Emptiers	Total	Gallons of Petrol used
1947	59,092	33,373	92,465	12,907
1948	68,760	46,132	114,892	14,308
1949	74,943	48,618	123,561	15,948

The average number of gallons per week used during the last three years was 276.68, whilst records for the year 1949 alone, show a weekly average of 306.69 gallons.

The employment of a fitter has again proved itself to be a considerable asset. The time lost through vehicles being off the road has been very small indeed. It is hoped that with the completion of the new garages it will be possible to increase the maintenance equipment.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

During the year, 5462 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department comprised as follows :—

Number of visits to Premises where foodstuffs are stored,				
			prepared or handled	84
„	„	„	Dairies	79
„	„	„	Cowsheds	115
„	„	„	Knacker's Yard	3
„	„	„	Slaughterhouses	10
„	„	„	Piggeries (Domestic Pig Keepers)	15
„	„	„	Complaints <i>re</i> domestic animals	8
„	„	„	Factories	33
„	„	„	Hop Pickers' Camps	73
„	„	„	Inspect newly constructed Hop Pickers' Huts	14
„	„	„	Premises <i>re</i> Notifiable and Infectious Disease	43
„	„	„	Premises <i>re</i> Storage of Petroleum Spirit	27
„	„	„	Swimming Baths	2
„	„	„	Sewage Disposal Outfall Works; Pumping Station and Small Group Disposal Works	201
„	„	„	Places of Public Assembly	9

Number of Housing Inspections carried out under Housing and/or Public Health Acts—First Visits		...	343
		Revisits	182
„	„	Huts/Hutted Camps inspected (Emergency Housing)	190
„	„	House Inspections in connexion with rehousing	341
„	„	Cesspools and/or Septic Tank installations inspected	72
„	„	Rivers, Streams, Ditches, Ponds and/or Water-courses, etc., inspected	75
„	„	Inspections of Sewers	118
„	„	Drains inspected and/or tested	471
„	„	Flushing Tanks inspected	8
„	„	Visits <i>re</i> Flow Gauging of Trade Waste Effluent discharged to Sewers	36
„	„	Inspections of Sites <i>re</i> Moveable Dwellings	27
„	„	Inspections of Moveable Dwellings	18
„	„	Visits to premises <i>re</i> Water Supplies	83
„	„	Inspections of Wells	7
„	„	Inspections of Refuse accumulations and/or Manure Heaps	27
„	„	Visits to Controlled Refuse Tips	31
„	„	„ „ Premises <i>re</i> Night Soil Disposal arrangements	7
„	„	„ „ Premises <i>re</i> Pail Closets	126
„	„	„ „ „ <i>re</i> Aged Persons	4
„	„	„ „ „ <i>re</i> applications for Registration for sale of Ice Cream	28
„	„	„ „ „ Milk “Distributors”	12
„	„	„ „ „ Milk Pasteurising Establishment	2
„	„	„ „ <i>re</i> Construction of New Garages (MRDC)	29
„	„	„ „ to premises <i>re</i> Rat and Mice Infestations	848
„	„	„ „ premises fumigated for Pests and/or Vermin (Other than Rats and Mice)	59
„	„	„ „ Disinfections carried out after Infectious Disease	28
„	„	„ „ Samples of Water collected	29
„	„	„ „ „ Milk collected	73
„	„	„ „ Visits to Meet Owners/Agents	80
„	„	„ „ „ Builders	95
„	„	„ „ Miscellaneous visits	268
„	„	„ „ Special Investigations <i>re</i> proposed Schemes for Sewerage	805
„	„	„ „ Visits to Shops	15
„	„	„ „ Inspections of premises for Rural Survey purposes	189
„	„	„ „ Visits to Sanitary Conveniences at Public Houses	18
„	„	„ „ „ Agricultural Camps	1
„	„	„ „ <i>re</i> Smoke Nuisances	1

The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing premises during the year under review :—

Wallplaster repaired/renewed	11	Number of Informal Notices served during 1949	... 229
Ceiling plaster repaired/renewed	11	Number of Formal Notices served during 1949	... 7
Floors repaired/renewed	12	Number of Complaints received during 1949	... 436
Doors and windows repaired/renewed	18	Drain vent shafts repaired/renewed	... 2
Fireplaces repaired/renewed	3	Choked sewers cleansed	... 20
Dampness of walls remedied	5	Sewers repaired/relaid	... 5
Roofs repaired	27	Sewer Inspection Cover frames re-set/provided with new covers and frames	... 6
Water supply pipes and stop taps repaired/renewed	9	Additional sewer inspection chambers constructed	... 3
Flue pipes repaired/renewed	6	Sewer Flushing Tanks repaired	... 3
Rain Water Gutting repaired/renewed	6	Premises newly connected to sewer	... 9
Brickwork repointed	2	Premises newly connected to an existing treatment plant	1
Brickwork of walls rebuilt	3	Septic Tanks/cesspools repaired	... 13
Cooking Ranges repaired/renewed	5	Cesspools discontinued	... 5
Washing Boilers repaired/renewed	2	New cesspools/septic tanks constructed	... 29
Chimney Stacks repaired/rebuilt	5	Sub-soil irrigation systems constructed to cesspools/septic tanks	... 28
Huts waterproof treated with Bitumastic Solution and Hessian	16	New Hopper Huts erected	... 14
Woodwork of Staircases repaired/renewed	1	Milk Pasteurisation Plants installed	... 1
Brick Walls strengthened with iron tie rods	2	New Dairies constructed	... 1
Hutted Camp roads hardcored	2	Structurally defective dairies ceased to be occupied	... 2
Additional W.C's installed	146	Dairies reconstructed	... 2
W.C. Pans renewed	20	Cafes cleansed	... 1
Additional W.C. Flushing cisterns installed	146	Cafes—Preparation rooms reconstructed	... 1
W.C. flushing cisterns renewed/repared	10	Abatement of nuisances—Keeping of Animals	... 2
Pail or Earth Closets converted to W.C's	74	Drinking Water supplies improved (Factories)	... 1
Closet compartment structures reconstructed/repared	48	Water supplies piped indoors	2
Additional Baths installed	51	Accumulations of refuse/manure removed	... 3
Additional Lavatory Basins installed	63	Choked ditches/ponds/streams /water courses cleansed	... 5
Additional Sinks installed	30	Nuisances from indiscriminate tipping of night-soil abated	2
Sinks renewed	16	Dwellings demolished under "Demolition Order" (Section 11, Housing Act, 1936)	1
Additional Urinals installed	9	Dwellings reconditioned in accordance with "Undertaking" (Section 11, Housing Act, 1936)	1
Urinals repaired/reconstructed	8		
Choked drains cleansed	43		
Drains laid/altered/repared	130		
Disused drains sealed off	1		
Additional gullies installed	48		
Additional interceptor traps installed	8		
Additional inspection chambers constructed on existing drains	58		
Drain covers and frames renewed/re-set	7		

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found :—

Inspections :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Owners Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities :	18	5	1	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	133	28	5	—
Total	151	33	6	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Rem- edied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	3	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes.	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work).	1	1	—	—	—
Total	9	5	—	4	—

OUTWORKERS :

There is only one outworker registered in the rural district. This is a lady engaged on the making of children's dresses in her own home. Conditions are satisfactory.

SHOPS ACTS. Visits to shops in connection with the administration of the Shops Acts have been confined to those shops visited in conjunction with other duties. Only one complaint was received during the year relating to Sunday Trading. As a result of informal action the shopkeeper now displays the required cards and complies with the Act. Observations were carried out after closing time and no infringements noted. Under the Sunday Trading Act

it was necessary in three cases to require occupants of shops to procure and display the recognised display cards indicating articles allowed to be sold on a Sunday.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. Although there are many factory chimneys in the rural district no complaints were received during the year of a smoke nuisance from industry. However it was necessary to take informal action in the case of a club causing nuisance from smoke. As a result the chimney was raised and the nuisance abated.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. The two privately owned baths in the district which are open to public use were inspected during the year by my Department as in previous years and found to be well maintained. Samples of water for bacteriological examination from the deep and shallow parts of the baths together with samples from the deep ends for chemical examination were submitted to the Pathologist and Analyst during the year and found to be satisfactory in each case.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG AND FLEAS. As a result of tenants seeking the help of the department the following number of premises were treated for infestations during the year :—

12 houses sprayed for bed bug infestation.

1 house sprayed for flea infestation.

(In each case a liquid insecticide containing a residual D.D.T. preparation was used).

FLIES. Two houses were treated by spraying with a liquid insecticide to clear flies which were swarming in the loft spaces and in each case treatment was successful.

ANTS. As a result of a request for help spraying was carried out at one house to rid the premises of ants in large numbers.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. Baiting and poisoning as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was continued during 1949 of surface and sewer infestations and the results have been satisfactory.

In this connection 127 complaints were received regarding infestations and these were duly investigated and treated. Routine treatments were carried out on the Council's sewers. In addition routine treatment is carried out at all the Council's refuse tips and Sewage Works.

In one instance a large infestation proved difficult to clear owing to the rats becoming "Poison Prejudiced" and following visits by Representatives of the Ministry a treatment was carried out with A.N.T.U., poisoned bait. Owing to a very heavy rain storm much of this bait was washed away so that it was difficult to estimate the efficiency of this substance though many kills did take place. Following a "rest" period normal baiting and poisoning were continued.

SECTION D.

HOUSING. The number of complaints received during the year was again high indicating a large amount of disrepair to cottage property still outstanding. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain some cottages in a reasonable state of repair, because of widespread disrepair and the low rents received. Such cottages will obviously have to be dealt with by demolition when the housing programme allows and it is considered unreasonable to require owners to do more than attend to urgent repairs and maintain the cottages watertight for the present. The small rents received for such cottage property is a big factor for a number of owners are dependent upon the rents to subsidise incomes and they cannot raise sufficient money to carry out complete reconditioning. However despite this fact and the fact that building labour is being chiefly used in the construction of new houses quite a lot of repair work has been achieved during the year.

The time has not yet arrived in this district when it will be possible to allocate a percentage of new houses to enable me to represent unfit houses incapable of repair at reasonable cost, for demolition under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, but where premises become structurally dangerous they will be so represented.

Action under Section 11 was taken during the year in the case of one dwelling which was demolished as a result of a demolition order being made. One other house was rendered fit in accordance with an "Undertaking" given under Section 11 during the previous year.

The 5 hutted camps comprised chiefly of Nissen huts provide accommodation for 92 families. As time passes these huts are proving costly to maintain and the occupants are not satisfied with this temporary accommodation. At the year's end it was proposed to recommend the Council to rehouse a small percentage of suitable tenants from hutted camps in new Council houses and to use the huts as a stepping stone to more permanent accommodation. During the year under review the Nissen huts at Court Lodge Camp, Aylesford were waterproofed with hessian and bitumen whilst works were in hand to treat the huts at three other camps in a similar way. Indoor water supply and sinks together with the requisite drainage was provided during the year to 5 Nissen huts at the Burham hutted camp.

Number of New Dwellings erected during the year :—

(Information kindly supplied by Mr. J. Hole, M.I. Mun. E.—
Building Surveyor).

(a) By the Local Authority (Permanent)			
(i) Airey Prefabricated Type		8	
(ii) Traditional Types		34	42
(b) By others			23
			<u>65</u>

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY. A further 189 houses were inspected and recorded in connection with the Survey during 1949. Only this limited progress was possible because of the fact that the Officer who carries out such visits is also responsible for making enquiries and verifying details of applicants for Housing Accommodation on behalf of the Tenants Selection Committee prior to the letting of new Council Houses. In addition many weeks of his time were taken up in connection with the collection of Morrison and Anderson A.R.P. Shelters which took place during the latter part of the year on Home Office instructions.

A total of 1887 houses have now been inspected and recorded, the details of which are set out below :—

Category.		% to total surveyed	
1.	Satisfactory in all respects ...	37	1.96
2.	Minor Defects	1,538	81.51
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement ...	189	10.01
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning	Nil	Nil
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	123	6.52

	Cooking Facilities				Food Storage		Water Supply			Drainage			Closet Accommodation				
	*Ranges	Electricity	Gas	Oil	Ventilated	Unventilated	Main	Well	Piped Indoors	Sewer	Cesspool	None	W. C. Indoors	W. C. Outdoors	Pail Closet Outdoors	Privy Midden	Chemical Closet
During 1949	179	6	4	—	1	188	189	—	189	38	151	—	—	88	101	—	—
Inclusive total at end of 1949	1779	35	64	9	127	1760	1887	—	1755	1529	343	15	5	1696	183	—	1

* It should be noted that approximately 65% of this number have other means of cooking either by electricity or gas in addition to ranges.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply :

On the 1st October 1949 the control of milk production passed from the Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944. Control of milk distribution remains the duty of the District Council. At that time there were 66 farms producing milk in the rural district, of which 19 were producer retailers. 115 inspections of cowsheds were carried out prior to the change over. Important structural alterations were carried out to cowsheds at 4 farms, during that part of the year up to 1st October, 1949.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936-1949.

Number of farms licensed to produce (as at 1st October, 1949) :—

(1) Accredited Milk	...	...	...	...	10
(2) Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	25

This represents 53% of the total number of milk producing farms in the district.

The following licences were granted during the year :—

Dealers' licences to use special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers' licences to use special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary licences to use special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary licences to use special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Pasteurisation

One pasteurising plant was licensed by the Council during the year. This is a holder type pasteuriser dealing with 300 gallons of milk per day. Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, control of this plant passed to the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority on 1st October, 1949.

Milk Sampling at Milk Producing Farms.

The following samples were taken by an Officer of this Department prior to 1st October, 1949, since which date the responsibility for sampling has been with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Owing to parts of Malling being within a prescribed "infected area" in relation to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease sampling had to be discontinued during the period 27th August to 12th September, 1949 as a precautionary measure to ensure the minimum risk of spread of the infection.

Grade	Number of Samples Taken	Number which satisfied the prescribed test	Number which did not satisfy the prescribed test
Tuberculin Tested	49	39	10
Accredited	23	14	9
Non-Designated	1	Negative for T.B.	

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. (In force from 1st October, 1949).

Number of dairies registered	...	...	...	12
„ „ persons registered as distributors				29

79 visits of inspection were made to dairies during the year and action was taken in one case where a person was found bottling milk in a scullery, having disposed of the registered dairy. The business was eventually sold to a neighbouring dairyman on the register. Improvements were effected in the case of 2 dairies during the year, in the one case by the opening of newly specially constructed Dairy premises and in the other case by the Dairyman moving to more suitable premises.

The following approximate quantities of milk were distributed daily during the year in the rural district :—

(i) Raw Milk	...	...	...	...	529 gallons
(ii) Tuberculin Tested and Accredited					400 „
(iii) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	1984 „
(iv) Sterilised	...	...	...	...	20 „
					<hr/> 2933 gallons <hr/>

This quantity of milk gives an average consumption of $\frac{2}{3}$ rd pint per person per day.

No case of infectious or other disease attributed to milk was brought to the notice of the Department during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There is no centralised slaughterhouse within the district, the butchers shops being supplied from the abattoirs in the adjoining urban areas. Three private slaughterhouses are licensed in connexion with the Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme and all pigs slaughtered on these premises are inspected.

Inspections of food at the various retail shops in the district, are carried out from time to time and in this direction the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unfit during the year :—

FISH—

70 lbs. of Kippers.
63 lbs. of Crabs.
84 lbs. of Mixed Fillets.
70 lbs. of Witches.
70 lbs. of Lemon Soles.
518 lbs. of Herrings.

TINNED FISH—

2×8 oz. tins of Crawfish.
2×3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. tins of Danish Brisling.
7×3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. tins of Cod Liver Roe.
2×3 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. tins of Crab Paste.
1×14 oz. tin of Cured Pilchards.
5×15 oz. tins of Pilchards.

6×16 oz. tins of Pilchards.
 19×7½ oz. tins of Fried Fish Cake.
 1×4½ oz. tin of Sardines.
 2×3¼ oz. tins of Cod Liver Roe
 Paste.

MEAT—

6 cwts. of Polish Chitterlings.
 7½ lbs. of Cooked Beef.
 9 lbs. of Bacon.
 2 lbs. of Sheeps Livers.
 88 lbs. of Beef.
 14 lbs. of Pork Sausages.
 16 lbs. of Beef Sausages.

TINNED MEATS—

5×12 oz. tins of Meat Lunch.
 2×12 oz. tins of Veal Loaf.
 1×29 oz. tin of Pork.
 1×30 oz. tin of Pork and Gravy.
 6×5½ oz. tins of Pate de fois gras.
 1×1 lb. tin of Rabbit.
 1×7 lb. tin of Luncheon Meat.
 1×6 lb. tin of Luncheon Meat.
 1×4 lb. tin of Luncheon Meat.
 1×1 lb. tin of Irish Stew.
 2×3 lb. tins of Chicken and Ham
 Roll.
 1×12 oz. tin of Minced Beef in
 Cereals.
 2×1 lb. tins of Sausages.
 2×1 lb. tin of Sausages.
 1×1 lb. tin of Steak and Potatoes.

TINNED MILK—

29×16 oz. tins of Condensed Full
 Cream Milk.
 15×1¾ pint tins of Condensed Full
 Cream Milk.
 41×1⅞ pint tins of Condensed Full
 Cream Milk.
 41×16 oz. tins of Evaporated Milk.
 2×15 oz. tins of Evaporated Milk.
 50×14½ oz. tins of Evaporated Milk.

TINNED VEGETABLES—

4×1 lb. tins of Peas.
 3×30 oz. tins of Peas.
 2×2½ lb. tins of Peas.
 1×14½ oz. tin of Peas.
 1×28 oz. tin of Tomatoes.
 2×36 oz. tins of Tomatoes.
 2×16 oz. tins of Tomato Soup.
 1×29 oz. tin of Jersey Potatoes.
 3×16 oz. tins of Spaghetti.
 2×1 lb. tins of Chopped Beetroot.
 1×2½ lb. tin of Beetroot.
 3×16 oz. tins of Beetroot.
 2×2 lb. tins of Beetroot.
 6×9 oz. jars of Gherkins.
 1×30 oz. tin of Carrots.
 2×28 oz. tins of Carrots.
 3×1 lb. tins of Baked Beans.
 2×8 oz. tins of Beans.

VEGETABLES—

30½ cwts. of Cabbages.

TINNED FRUIT—

1×20 oz. tin of Apple Puree.
 4×30 oz. tins of Grapes in Syrup.
 19×29 oz. tins of Red Plums.
 1×16 oz. tin of Plums.
 1×15 oz. tin of Pineapple Cubes.
 1×1¼ lb. tin of Grape Fruit.

DRIED FRUIT—

25 lbs. of Peaches.

CHEESE—

3 lbs. of Cheese.

JAMS—

2×2 lb. tins of Golden Syrup.
 1×4 lb. tin of Apricot Jam.
 42×1½ lb. tins of Melon and Lemon
 Jam.
 2×2 lb. tins of Grape Fruit Mar-
 marlade.

The Chief Inspector (Mr. S. Strugnell) of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council has kindly furnished the following details of samples submitted to the Public Analyst during the year:—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Malling Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Article	No.	Article	No.
Batter Flour	1	Cake Mixture	1
Bi-Carbonate of Soda	1	Cocoa	1
Bismuth Mixture	1	Coffee and Chicory Essence	1

Article	No.	Article	No.
Coffee, Butter (Flavour) ...	1	Peas, Processed ...	1
Cooking Fat ...	3	Peppermint Flavouring ...	1
Cough Syrup ...	1	Phosferine ...	1
Dessert Rhubarb ...	1	Phosferine Tablets ...	1
Flavouring Essence ...	1	Phyllosan ...	1
Flour, Self Raising ...	1	Pork, Beef and Veal Loaf ...	1
Fruit Mixture ...	1	Prunes ...	1
Fruit Pudding, Plum ...	1	Puffed Wheat ...	1
Ginger, Preserved ...	1	Roe, Soft Mackerel ...	1
Glauber Salts ...	1	Saccharin Tablets ...	1
Golden Raising Powder ...	1	Salad Cream ...	1
Ice-Cream ...	1	Salad Dressing ...	1
Jam, Raspberry ...	1	Spice, Mixed ...	1
Jam, Red Plum ...	1	Syrup of Figs ...	1
Jam, Stoneless Plum ...	1	Vinegar ...	1
Jam, Strawberry ...	1	Vinegar, Malt ...	1
Lard ...	1	Vinegar, Non-Brewed ...	1
Meat Paste ...	3	Whisky ...	5
Mennco Matte (Tea Substitute) ...	1	Wine, Fruit-Flavoured ...	1
Milk ...	55		
Milk of Magnesia Tablets ...	1		
Orchard Fruits ...	1		
Ovaltine Tablets ...	1		
Passion Fruit Juice ...	1		
		Total	111

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Milk. Contained 8.0% extraneous water.	}	Proceedings. Defendant fined £10 and £2 2 0 costs.
Milk. Contained 10.5% extraneous water.		
Milk. 6.7% deficient in fat.	}	Improper Mixing. Two samples taken later reported as genuine.
Milk. 13.3% deficient in fat.		Improper Mixing. Sample taken later reported as genuine.
Milk. 20.0% deficient in fat.		Further sample genuine.
Milk. 3.3% deficient in fat.		
Raspberry Jam. Fruit content 14% (Standard 20%).		Probably due to uneven mixing at the factory. Further sample to be obtained.
Salad Cream. 0.35% deficient in Egg Yolk solids.		Manufacturer notified. Further sample to be taken.

ICE CREAM. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the rural district. At the year's end there were 39 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. Only 5 samples of ice cream were taken during the year, 3 of which were satisfactory and the other 2 giving Grades 3 and 4 results respectively. The two unsatisfactory samples referred to one supply. Inspection of the premises was carried out and as a result the shop conservator was overhauled.

HOP AND FRUIT PICKERS' CAMPS. There are 30 hop pickers camps within the rural district and 73 inspections were carried out at these camps during the season. Conditions were found to be

generally good and only minor defects were noted. In one or two cases it was necessary to draw the attention of the growers to the fouled condition of latrines but such nuisances were immediately remedied. The byelaw standard of latrine accommodation is one sanitary convenience for every 20 persons and with the communal use of same it is difficult to maintain conveniences thoroughly clean.

At some camps the floors to huts are of earth and although concrete floors cannot be demanded under the byelaws if beds are provided it is proposed to solicit the co-operation of the growers in an effort to provide concrete to every hut.

Another point requiring attention during the season was the collection and disposal of refuse. The growers at the commencement of hop picking had provided refuse bins to byelaw standard but pickers had appropriated such bins to other uses with the result that one or two camps were untidy and the growers attention had to be drawn to same.

It is proposed to circularise all hop growers before the commencement of the 1950 season drawing their attention to the need for special attention to be paid to the two items, viz: sanitary accommodation and refuse collection and requesting their co-operation in maintaining camps free from nuisance.

CAMPING SITES (P.H. Act, 1936—Section 269) (Moveable Dwellings). The housing difficulties, still acute in this district, are responsible no doubt for the increased use of caravans as housing accommodation. Many young people desirous of getting married are now resorting to caravans for habitation and this is a problem that will grow with time and will not diminish until permanent houses are available for all.

The recent High Court case of *Pelling v the Abergele Urban District Council* clarified the position under the Public Health Act and it is now possible to refuse application for licences under Section 296 of this Act on Public Health grounds only. Generally speaking persons wishing to live in a caravan are only too willing to comply with the requirements of the Sanitary Authority. The expedient of the Council providing licensed sites is not easy to overcome in a rural district of this nature for a number of sites would be required in close proximity to industrial centres with the consequent supervision of same.

Each application for a licence under the Public Health Act is dealt with strictly on its merits and every effort is made to discourage the use of pseudo-caravans and shacks.

The problem of gipsy encampments still remains and the fact that recognised gipsy camping grounds in adjacent districts have been broken up has led to increased numbers of gipsy caravans

entering this district. Their reputation makes it difficult for them to find pitches with the consent of land owners and they are driven usually to camp illegally on the verges of highways or on waste land e.g. the numerous chalk and sand pits in this district. The existing powers to deal with this type of encampment have proved little more than harassing.

The following gives particulars of licences dealt with during the year :—

(a) Number of Applications received during the year for Sites to be Licensed for the use by				
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	5
Number of such Licences granted	...	...	...	4
(b) Number of Applications received during the year for Licences to station and use Move-				
able Dwellings	...	...	...	5
Number of such Licences granted	...	...	...	4

All applicants for licences under Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936 are also referred to the Council's Building Surveyor in order that they may obtain Planning Authority permission to their proposals.

HARVEST CAMPS. The Harvest Camp sited at Wrotham Hill was again in use during the 1949 season. An inspection was carried out and the Warden in charge interviewed, when the camp was found to be satisfactory. Tents were used for sleeping purposes whilst permanent structures exist for food preparation and dining purposes. Mains water is laid on and shower baths are provided.

I place on record my thanks for the continued support and backing of the Council during the year under review which does so much to alleviate the many problems encountered. I would like also to express my thanks to the staff for their help, particularly for the hours so willingly worked after normal duty.

I am,
Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
H. C. COLDRICK,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

24th August, 1950.

